

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter and Status of the Claims

The Examiner indicates that Claims 28, 33-35, 39-42 and 57-60 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended the claims according to the Examiner's suggestion.

Applicant notes that Claims 15, 30, 47, 56, 61 and 62 were not rejected in the Office Action. Applicant requests clarification as to why these claims were not deemed to be allowable.

Applicant has amended Claims 15, 28, 30, 33-35, 39-42, 47, 56 and 57 so that the claims no longer depend on a rejected independent claim. Applicant has canceled Claims 1-14, 16-27, 29, 31, 32, 36-38, 43-46, 48-55 and 63-87. The claims as amended include all of the elements of the base independent claim and any intervening claims. Applicant notes that Claims 58-62 depend from currently amended Claim 57, and, therefore, contain the elements of currently amended Claim 57. No new matter has been added. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 15, 28, 30, 33-35, 39-42, 47 and 56-62 are now pending in this application.

Rejection of Claim 70 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner has rejected Claim 70 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant has canceled Claim 70, thereby obviating the rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-10, 16-18, 25-28, 32, 43, 45-46, 48, 50-54, 63-67 and 69-87 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-10, 16-18, 25-28, 32, 43, 45-46, 48, 50-54, 63-67 and 69-87 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stone (U.S. Patent No: 5,116,374).

Solely to advance prosecution without hindering Applicant's rights to capture canceled subject matter in a subsequent divisional or continuing application, Applicant has canceled Claims 1-10, 16-18, 25-28, 32, 43, 45-46, 48, 50-54, 63-67 and 69-87, thereby obviating the rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 11-14, 19, 20 and 32 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 11-14, 19, 20 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stone (U.S. Patent No: 4,880,429).

Solely to advance prosecution without hindering Applicant's rights to capture canceled subject matter in a subsequent divisional or continuing application, Applicant has canceled Claims 1, 11-14, 19, 20 and 32, thereby obviating the rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 22-24 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stone (U.S. Patent No: 5,108,438).

Solely to advance prosecution without hindering Applicant's rights to capture canceled subject matter in a subsequent divisional or continuing application, Applicant has canceled Claims 1 and 22-24, thereby obviating the rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1, 16, 21, 45, 46 and 49 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 16, 21, 45, 46 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stone (U.S. Patent No: 6,231,608).

Solely to advance prosecution without hindering Applicant's rights to capture canceled subject matter in a subsequent divisional or continuing application, Applicant has canceled Claims 1, 16, 21, 45, 46 and 49, thereby obviating the rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 29, 31, 36-38, 44 and 49 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 29, 31, 36-38, 44 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stone (U.S. Patent No: 5,116,374) in view of Stone (U.S. Patent No: 6,231,608).

Solely to advance prosecution without hindering Applicant's rights to capture canceled subject matter in a subsequent divisional or continuing application, Applicant has canceled Claims 29, 31, 36-38, 44 and 49, thereby obviating the rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claim 55 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claim 55 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stone (U.S. Patent No: 5,116,374) in view of Stone (U.S. Patent No: 5,007,934).

Solely to advance prosecution without hindering Applicant's rights to capture canceled subject matter in a subsequent divisional or continuing application, Applicant has canceled Claim 55, thereby obviating the rejection.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 28, 33-35, 39-42 and 57-60 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form so as not to depend from rejected independent claims. Applicant has amended these claims as indicated, including all elements of parent and intervening claims.

Applicant also notes that Claims 15, 30, 47, 56, 61 and 62 were not specifically rejected in the Office Action. Applicant has likewise amended these claims so that they do not depend from a rejected independent claim. The amended claims likewise contain all elements of parent and intervening claims.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or

incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extension fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 48329
Telephone: (617) 342-4085
Facsimile: (617) 342-4001

Respectfully submitted,


By For (158,468)
MICHAEL YAMAGUCHI

John M. Garvey
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 37,833